



TO: Senate Committee on Universities, Technical Colleges, Children and Families Members

FROM: Mary Czech-Mrochinski, Marquette University- Cell phone number (414) 313-7315

DATE: December 2, 2019

RE: Support for Senate Bill 228- Rural Dentistry Scholarship Fund in Senate Committee on Universities, Technical Colleges, Children and Families for Public Hearing on December 4, 2019

The Marquette University School of Dentistry (MUSOD) respectfully requests your support for Senate Bill 228 which creates a Rural Dentistry Scholarship Fund to improve oral health care access in Wisconsin's rural communities.

The State of Wisconsin has invested to proactively create a rural physician workforce. Senate Bill 228 actively creates a pipeline of dentists for rural Wisconsin to address the State's dentist distribution issue.

According to the Wisconsin Office of Rural Health (please see the attached map from October 2018):

- In 14 Wisconsin counties federally designated as Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (DHPSAs), it would take just one or fewer dentists to remove the DHPSA designation.
- In a further 13 Wisconsin counties, two or fewer dentists would be enough to remove the DHPSA designation.

Since its founding in 1894, the MUSOD has been committed to educating and training dentists. In 1973, MUSOD and the state of Wisconsin formalized their partnership, and MUSOD continues to be the state of Wisconsin's dental school. The Marquette University School of Dentistry's reach spans well beyond Milwaukee and across the state, on an annual basis, MUSOD serves nearly 27,000 patients in over 108,000 patient visits in more than 60 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. MUSOD is also one of the state's largest dental Medicaid providers. MUSOD believes that the Rural Dentistry Scholarship program provides a cost-effective solution to increasing the number of practicing dentists in more rural parts of Wisconsin and improving access to care for underserved populations.

In advance of the public hearing on December 4, 2019, I wanted to clarify some of the fiscal aspects of this legislation.

This bill provides up to five Wisconsin Residents per class who are enrolled in the Marquette University School of Dentistry and in the Rural Dentistry Scholarship Program a grant of \$75,000 per year in exchange for agreeing to practice dentistry for 18-months for each year of the grant in a Wisconsin federally DHPSA that is not located in Brown, Dane, Kenosha, Milwaukee, or Waukesha County. Dental school is for four-years so an eligible Wisconsin resident could receive \$75,000 per year for up to four-years and as a result they would be agreeing to serve in a DHSPA that is not located in Brown, Dane, Kenosha, Milwaukee, or Waukesha County for six-years. Chances are if a dentist serves in a DHPSA for six-years that they will become a permanent member of the community. This program will be administered by the Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) in consultation with the Department of Health Services. In addition, the Rural Dentistry Scholarship agreement must specify that if a Wisconsin resident student does not practice dentistry in an eligible area in this state for the required number of months, he or she is liable to the state for an amount that is based on the number of months he or she did not practice in an eligible area in this state.

Since dental school is four-years, each class would have up to five Wisconsin residents enrolled in their Rural Dentistry Scholarship Program, but it would take four-years for up to 20 students (5 per class) to be participating. Each scholarship per Wisconsin resident is \$75,000 annually so 5 multiplied by \$75,000 or a total of \$375,000. Senate Bill 228 reflects the full four-year phase in of these dental scholarships or \$1.5 million annually; per Wisconsin State Statute 20.001(3)(a), unused funds would be lapsed back to the State. Since dental school is four years first year students are referred to as D1s, second year students are referred to as D2s, third year students are referred to as D3s, and fourth year students are referred to as D4s.

2020-2021 = 5 WI Resident D1s @ \$75,000 scholarship= \$375,000 total; \$1,125,000 would lapse back

2021-2022 = 5 WI Resident D1s @ \$75,000 scholarship and 5 WI Resident D2s @ \$75,000 scholarship = \$750,000 total; \$750,000 would lapse back

2022-2023 = 5 WI Resident D1s @ \$75,000 scholarship, 5 WI Resident D2s @ \$75,000 scholarship, and 5 WI Resident D3s @ \$75,000 = \$1,250,000 total; \$375,000 would lapse back

2023-2024 = = 5 WI Resident D1s @ \$75,000 scholarship, 5 WI Resident D2s @ \$75,000 scholarship, 5 WI Resident D3s @ \$75,000 and 5 WI Resident D4s @ \$75,000 = \$1,500,000 total; \$0 lapse back

2024-2025 and beyond \$1,500,000 as outlined in 2023-2024.

Also, the bill requires HEAB, in cooperation with the Marquette University School of Dentistry, to make every effort to ensure that students in the Rural Dentistry Scholarship Program practice dentistry upon graduation in geographically diverse dental health professional

shortage areas that are not located in Brown, Dane, Kenosha, Milwaukee, or Waukesha County; the goal of the program is to make sure that graduating dentists would matriculate into various DHPSAs.

Senate Bill 228 also provides \$350,000 annually to the Marquette University School of Dentistry to support the creation of a Rural Dentistry Scholarship Program. The bill defines these funds as being designated for “administrative costs” but this is a misnomer. The Marquette University School of Dentistry’s costs for the program are closer to \$750,000 annually. This includes funding to support a Director of a Rural Oral Health Track, four dental assistants which would be one per affiliated clinic, and a Rural Clinic and Patient Outcomes Coordinator which total \$470,000 in wages and benefits. Operations for this program including travel of the affiliated director and students to the affiliated rural sites, annual training for dental Preceptors (Adjunct Clinic faculty who will educate and train students at each rural affiliated location) to travel to the Main Marquette University School of Dentistry for calibration and training on an annual basis so that these affiliated sites can meet with standards of the Commission on Dental Accreditation, evaluation of new affiliated clinic sites each year, and supplies, lab fees, and equipment to support the clinical care performed by the students at each affiliated clinical site total \$280,000 annually. The total costs of this program annually would be \$750,000 and this bill provides \$350,000 annually to support this program.

If you have further questions regarding this legislation, please feel free to contact me. Thank you!



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# TONY KURTZ

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 50<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

## 2019 Senate Bill 228

Relating to: Marquette University School of Dentistry Rural Scholarship Program and making an appropriation.

Public Hearing: Senate Committee on Universities, Technical Colleges, Children and Families

December 4, 2019

Thank you, Chairman Kooyenga and members of the committee for holding a public hearing on Senate Bill 228 (SB 228), also known as Bailey's Bill.

One important aspect to healthcare is that of dental care. Unfortunately, over half of the counties in our state have been federally designated as a Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). The intent of this legislation is to help improve access to dental care in our most sparsely populated areas: rural Wisconsin.

The point of SB 228 is to incentive new dentists to set up practice in rural Wisconsin. The idea of this bill is similar to previous legislation that the Wisconsin State Legislature created to incentivize and attract other profession to rural areas. This bill would require the Higher Education Aids Board (HEAB) to work with the Department of Health Services (DHS) to create a scholarship program that would award five \$75,000 scholarships annually to students at the Marquette University School of Dentistry. Students would be eligible for up to four years on the scholarship, and in return, would be expected to complete 18 months of practice in the qualifying Dental HPSA for each annual scholarship accepted. Students who accept the scholarship but fail to practice in a qualifying area would be liable to the state for an amount determined by the number of months the student failed to meet the requirement.

I call this bill "Bailey's Bill" because earlier this year, I met a young man from my district, Bailey, who wants to become a dentist and would love to move back and work in rural Reedsburg. His main drawback for practicing in his rural hometown is a real financial concern - will he be able to make enough to payback his student loans providing dental services to his community. This bill could change that and potentially eliminate that concerns altogether.

In addition to the cost of the scholarships, this bill also allocates funding to assist Marquette University by providing some of the financial support for the University's costs to administer the program. These funds would help support educational instruction and care at affiliated dental clinics in rural areas. These funds would be used to cover the cost of transportation, lodging, clinical supplies, and other costs associated with a program of this nature.

I thank you for your time and for listening to my testimony. I would be honored to have earned your support of SB 228 and will take any questions you have for me at this time.



## PATRICK TESTIN

STATE SENATOR

DATE: December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
RE: Testimony on 2019 Senate Bill 228  
TO: The Senate Committee on Universities, Technical Colleges, Children & Families  
FROM: Senator Patrick Testin

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I would like to thank Chairman Kooyenga and the members of the committee for accepting my written testimony on Senate Bill 228 (SB 228) today.

Rep. Kurtz and I have worked together to develop this piece of bi-partisan legislation to help alleviate the dental care needs of underserved Wisconsinites in rural areas. This bill would help improve the quality of Wisconsin's dental workforce in thirty-nine underserved counties by incentivizing dental students to locate to these counties after graduation.

SB 228 creates a \$75,000 annual scholarship program at Wisconsin's only dental school – the Marquette University School of Dentistry which would be administered by the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB). For each twelve month period that a student is under scholarship, that recipient must practice for eighteen months in one of the thirty-nine federally recognized Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (DHPSA) counties stipulated in the bill.

In the past, the legislature has seen fit to work on programs that incentivize settlement and practice in rural areas because studies show that professionals who are trained and establish themselves in these areas tend to stay there once settled.

When operating at full strength, this program would be able to fund the educations of five students per class year in dental school. In addition to the cost of the scholarships, this legislation also assists Marquette University by providing roughly half of the University's costs to administer the program. These funds would help support educational instruction and care at affiliated dental clinics in rural areas. Additionally, these funds are used to cover the cost of transportation, lodging, clinical supplies, and other costs associated with a program of this nature.

I'd encourage members of the committee to join me in supporting this bill and improving dental access for rural Wisconsinites.



**SENATOR JANET BEWLEY**  
**WISCONSIN STATE SENATE**

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**Senate Committee on Universities, Technical Colleges, Children and Families**  
**Public Hearing on Senate Bill 228**  
**December 4, 2019**

Chairman Kooyenga and fellow Committee Members,

I apologize but I had to leave today's hearing in order to attend the quarterly Council on Tourism meeting. I have some concerns about SB 228, the "Rural Dentistry Scholarship Fund" bill. While I support the stated goal of improving oral health care access in Wisconsin's rural communities, I'm afraid the bill, as currently written will not adequately target true rural areas. The criteria in the bill to limit where these students can practice uses as a starting point federally designated dental health professional shortage areas and then removes certain counties that contain the majority of Wisconsin's larger urban areas. What we've ended up with is a bill that targets underserved populations in 38 of Wisconsin's 72 Counties, a worthy goal, but not one that anyone can say with certainty will end up benefiting rural areas. The bill does contain language requiring HEAB and Marquette to "make every effort to ensure that students in the program practice dentistry upon graduation in eligible areas in this state that are geographically diverse," but I don't believe that is enough. I would like to see that criteria tightened in order to effectively target these additional resources so they do improve oral health in rural communities. I hope the authors of the bill would be willing to work to identify other ways to define rural, one possible place to look would be the USDA Rural Development's criteria for their loans. Thank you for your consideration.



**25th Senate District**

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Testimony of William K. Lobb, D.D.S., M.S., M.P.H. Dean of the Marquette University School of Dentistry (MUSOD)

In Favor of Senate Bill 228- Creating a Rural Dentistry Scholarship Program at MUSOD  
Before the State Senate Committee on Universities, Technical Colleges, Children and Families  
December 4, 2019

Good morning, Chairman Kooyenga and Members of the Committee. My name is Dr. William Lobb and for over the past 20 years I have served as Dean of the Marquette University School of Dentistry. I am here today to speak in favor of Senate Bill 228. I want to thank State Senator Patrick Testin and State Representative Tony Kurtz and for authoring this legislation which would create a Rural Dentistry Scholarship Program at the Marquette University School of Dentistry.

Since its founding in 1894, the Marquette University School of Dentistry (MUSOD) has been committed to educating and training dentists. In 1973, MUSOD and the state of Wisconsin formalized their partnership, and MUSOD continues to be the state of Wisconsin's dental school. The Marquette University School of Dentistry's reach spans well beyond Milwaukee and across the state. On an annual basis, MUSOD serves nearly 27,000 patients in over 108,000 patient visits in more than 60 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. MUSOD is also one of the state's largest dental Medicaid providers.

Under Senate Bill 228, this Rural Dentistry Scholarship Program would be administered by the Higher Educational Aids Program and provide \$75,000 in grant funds annually for each participant, to up to five first-year Wisconsin residents enrolled at the Marquette University School of Dentistry. In exchange, these Rural Dentistry Scholars would provide 18-months of service for each year they receive the grant, or a total of up to 6 years, in a dental health professional shortage area not located in Brown, Dane, Kenosha, Milwaukee or Waukesha Counties. The Marquette University School of Dentistry's facility and curriculum was designed so that 50% of our students' time is spent outside the walls of the School gaining experience in both urban and rural areas of Wisconsin and treating underserved populations.

The goal of this Rural Dentistry Scholarship Program is for dentists to practice in rural Wisconsin through an enhanced rural dental education focus to these five students per class via clinical rotations, additional programming, and a significant financial incentive, similar to other models such as the military. The program will be phased in over four-years, since dental school

is four-years and over time, when fully implemented, up to 20 Wisconsin residents enrolled at MUSOD would be part of the Program.

The legislation also provides \$350,000 annually to the Marquette University School of Dentistry and is defined as “administrative expenses” but this is a bit of a misnomer and would be used to support the a rural clinical director, training of adjunct faculty who serve as critical educational preceptors for our students, student transportation and housing, supplies to provide, and also helps to offset the costs of affiliated clinical rotations and care to underserved Wisconsinites. MUSOD as Wisconsin’s Dental School, has a long history of properly stewarding State funds and being its dental education partner. For example, MUSOD has an annual contract with the Department of Health Services for just under \$2.4 million to help support all the care we provide to the underserved. The value of the clinical services provided in the Milwaukee Clinic alone is \$15.6 million. This is over six times return on investment in a contract that has not been increased since 1997, in fact it’s been decreased over the years.

Like other health professions in Wisconsin, we need to create a more intentional pipeline of dentists in rural areas. We know we have a distribution of dentists’ issue in rural Wisconsin. We believe this program will proactively address this issue. While we have had some success with our D.D.S. program and our one-year Fellowship program having dentists decide to practice in rural Wisconsin, it is imperative that we have a more intentional program with an incentive. For 2018-2019, the average Marquette dental student graduated with \$253,671 in student debt, and this is before they even decide to buy or build a practice.

Some may say, \$75,000 a year seems like too much money for these students. For the 2020-21 academic year, the tuition for a first-year dental student at Marquette is \$56,600 for a Wisconsin resident (\$65,260 for a non-resident), plus books, instruments, equipment and gown fees of \$11,850 for a total of \$68,450. When you add costs for housing, food, and other needs the costs quickly exceed \$75,000 per year. We believe Senate Bill 228 provides a very attractive financial incentive and that through a more intensive exposure to rural Wisconsin combined with a six-year time commitment in specific federally designated health professional shortage areas will yield dentists permanently settling to practice in rural Wisconsin.

According to Wisconsin’s Office of Rural Health, and I am distributing their map that illustrates this, in 14 Wisconsin counties with a federal dental health professional shortage area (DHPSA) designation, it would take just one or fewer dentists to remove the DHPSA



designation. In an additional 13 counties, two or fewer dentists would be enough to remove the DHPSA designation.

Just as the State has invested to proactively address the shortage of rural physicians, Senate Bill 228 actively creates a pipeline of dentists for rural Wisconsin.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to testify in favor of Senate Bill 228. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.





Senate Committee on Universities, Technical Colleges, Children and Families  
Wisconsin State Capitol  
2 East Main Street  
Madison, WI 53702

December 4, 2019

Chair Kooyenga and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on SB 228 relating to the Marquette University School of Dentistry (MUSOD) Rural Scholarship Program. On behalf of the Wisconsin Academy of General Dentistry (WIAGD) and our more than 500 Wisconsin members, I would like to express our support of this legislation.

As a MUSOD alumnus, I have proudly taught multiple aspects of dentistry for 40 years at MUSOD as well as maintaining a private practice. It is my honor to teach aspiring dentists looking to serve their communities and advance the world of oral health. Additionally, the WIAGD features many student members who join to be part of the discussion on issues like student debt and increasing access to oral health care.

All of my students must undergo an in-person interview before consideration to a spot in the incoming class. During the interview as well as the application, we look for acts of community service and empathy in the candidates, as it is crucial our students possess the right characteristics when learning to become medical professionals.

SB 228 is an opportunity for our students to serve those with a greater need while not having to worry about the burden of student debt. The MUSOD Rural Scholarship Program will directly address the access to care issue in rural and underserved areas, and is a win-win for both our students and Wisconsin citizens who need access to quality oral health care.

The WIAGD supports policies that effectively increase access to care in our communities, which is why we strongly support SB 228 and respectfully ask you join us in doing the same. We would like to thank Senator Testin and Representative Kurtz for coming together to create this bi-partisan legislation that will incentivize our students to practice in underserved Wisconsin communities while alleviating their student debt.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Thank you again for your consideration and allowing the WIAGD to support SB 228.

Sincerely,

Louis Boryc, DDS, FAGD  
WIAGD President  
[louis.boryc@marquette.edu](mailto:louis.boryc@marquette.edu)